



Active Learning

a fresh approach to nursery education

About Active Learning



Active Learning caters for children aged from 3 months to 5 years and was established to provide a fresh approach to child care and nursery education. Our nursery provides purpose-designed facilities with an emphasis on light and space, enabling us to create a range of specific studios for performing arts (including music, drama and dance), physical education, art, science and discovery, IT and technology, cookery and indeed whatever the creative minds of our teachers and children wish to achieve.

For our babies, we have a special sensory room, full of wondrous things to look at, touch and discover. It is an ever-changing environment providing a constant source of new delights. In fact, all the children (and staff) love it - a haven of relaxation.

And of course, in the middle of all this boundless energy, we do have quieter rooms (including a dedicated sleep room for babies) where children can read, practice writing and maths, do puzzles, play games and engage with staff on special projects and other pre-school learning and playtime activities.

Our flagship site is located within a cricket ground providing endless opportunities for outdoor sports, games and projects. Even where sites are not set in such leafy surroundings, our emphasis remains on providing early years education through active learning. Attending Active Learning is a time to form new friendships and to interact socially across all age ranges, just like at home. Lunch time is fun – fresh, healthy meals are provided in our organic café.

Active Learning was set up by a professional team who have a collective experience of over 40 years in this field and who understand how nurseries and pre-school education have changed over this time. We are unique and differentiate ourselves from our competitors in all aspects of care and education. This nursery is the one you would have chosen as your perfect pre-school if only you were that age again. We believe it is what your child wants now. Active Learning is a place of fun and excitement, where every day is different and to be anticipated eagerly. Your child's time with us will provide wonderful memories which he or she will recall fondly for many years to come.



Choosing a nursery for your child

Choosing child care is a difficult and sometimes stressful task. You want your child to be safe, happy and to have fun. You also want them to be in an environment which promotes their development in all areas of their pre-school years – socially, physically and in creative and academic learning. You have many options – child minders, day care, nursery schools, nannies. Ultimately you want to know that your child is being looked after by skilled professionals who can help your child to achieve their greatest potential, and help to prepare them for school. Much of a person's intellect and personality is formed in the first three years of life. The quality of care and instruction they receive during this time is key to the development of who they become as adults.



At Active Learning we believe that helping a child to be confident, happy, healthy and adventurous is key to their future success in making the transition into school life and beyond. As our name suggests, much of the learning and education in our daily curriculum is achieved through active pursuits. Our offering includes a wealth of creative and other interactive opportunities to enjoy new discoveries through fun-filled music, sports, dance and art sessions, on top of the more standard nursery activities you would naturally expect. Unlike any other nursery, we provide specialist art, dance and music facilities presided over by qualified specialists in these fields. Your child will participate in integrated IT and science and have unprecedented opportunities to try out all sorts of pre-school early sports. This is a nursery where we very much believe in bringing the outdoors in!

Too often, parents put themselves under pressure: first choosing childcare and then sourcing and managing the logistics of extracurricular activities for their children to participate in – music lessons, art lessons, drama, ballet, PE, tennis, and other sports. Children are stressed by having too many activities outside their time in the nursery.

Active Learning believes that children should be children. By incorporating a wide range of these activities into the nursery as part of our normal day, tailored specifically to a child's individual interests and abilities, we help children to have more free time outside the nursery – to play and relax. And there are no additional costs!



Our mission



Our mission is to achieve excellence in every aspect of caring for your child, commencing their pre-school education, and preparing them in the best way possible for when they start school. Our commitment to you, the parents, is to provide you with absolute peace of mind that you have made the best choice for your child, and to provide you with outstanding customer service. Our commitment as a school is to remain at the forefront of innovation in pre-school learning and strive continuously to improve our curriculum and offer new opportunities to the children within our care.

What we offer

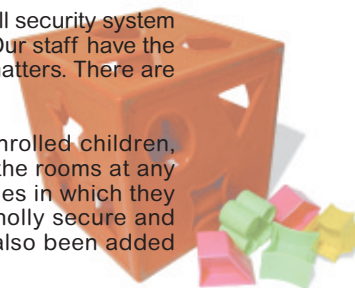
We achieve our mission by:

- Putting safety and security first
- Providing excellence and innovation in education
- Providing a new concept in nursery design, incorporating specific activity studios
- Providing excellence in service delivery
- Recruiting only the very best staff
- Retaining our staff through offering attractive rewards and ongoing development programs
- Providing an all-inclusive offer for your child
- Listening to, and respecting your child
- Working closely with parents in partnership
- Including parents and siblings within the Active Learning family

Putting safety and security first

Safety and security is every parent's biggest concern. At Active Learning we have installed a full security system utilising the latest webcam technology and also trained our staff in vital security procedures. Our staff have the highest level police checks possible, and are trained in both security and health and safety matters. There are always staff qualified in first aid on the premises.

The very latest webcams have been installed in every room of the nursery. Parents of enrolled children, through a controlled password system which only they can access, can see images of all the rooms at any time during the day. This helps them stay closer to their child, get a real taste of the activities in which they are involved, and discuss them with their child at the end of the day. The premises are wholly secure and only authorised parents or named contacts may enter, or pick up a child. Cameras have also been added outside the nursery for added security.



Providing excellence in education and innovation through Active Studios

At Active Learning we teach many of the fundamental principles of literacy and numeracy through age-appropriate learning techniques. Children find this fun, and are more enthusiastic to learn. We don't believe in hot housing children, or forcing them to sit down for long periods attempting work sheets.

Children are all individual. Some children have begun to read at the age of three. Others are late bloomers, showing little interest in letters and words until they are older. Research has demonstrated that late bloomers catch up very quickly once they have developed an interest in learning. Our objective is to help children develop this interest through fun and active pursuits.

We identify a child's individual talents and interests, and help them to pursue those at the pace which matches their ability. We cultivate a child's natural curiosity for discovery and learning and encourage them to be confident, independent and inquisitive in their work and games. This is what is most important to the schools they will enter after their time at Active Learning, and what will help them most of all as they progress through their education and subsequent adult life. Children who enjoy learning will always succeed.

Our curriculum is based on a combination of the Early Years standard curriculum, incorporating the best elements of Montessori, Pikler and Reggio methodologies, and the latest thinking from leading child care development research around the world. It is designed to help your child gain self-confidence through being respected, and learning to respect his/her environment and peers.

We provide a curriculum that meets the Early Years requirements for under-3s and over-3s. It will help your child develop an understanding of:

- Their own physical development
- Self-awareness, self-confidence and independence
- Self-reliance and emotional awareness
- Social and group skills
- Interaction with different age groups from within the nursery
- Focus, attention and memory
- Language development and communication skills
- Numeracy and basic maths
- Literacy, the alphabet and reading
- Creativity
- Their environment and the world around them





Our focus is on a holistic education for children, far surpassing the standard nursery curriculum with fun and creative activities in our dedicated studios:

- Active Music
- Active Dance
- Active Movement - physical education
- Active Drama
- Active Art
- Active IT
- Active Science and Discovery
- Active Senses – baby sensory room
- Active Play – two outside play areas (with a bicycle race track and traffic lights to learn about traffic safety) and an outdoor picnic area
- Organic café
- Sleep time – baby sleep room

Providing excellence in service delivery

Our staff are the most important element of our service delivery to parents and children. To ensure the delivery of the highest standards of child care and nursery education we have put together an experienced, dedicated and enthusiastic team of child care and teaching professionals. To ensure continuous innovation of our curriculum we hire not only trained nursery staff, but also specialist school teachers who are responsible for the curriculum in the Active Studios.

To maintain the highest calibre staff and their development we invest in a programme of continuous improvement. This includes ongoing training, a rigorous series of appraisals and assessments, feedback from peers, parents and the staff themselves. Staff retention is vital to the continuity of your child's education and experience and we do our best to ensure that our staff are nurtured, advanced and motivated, and incentivized to stay with the Active Learning family.

Finally, we have exceeded government staff ratios at all age groups in order to ensure your child receives the best motivation and attention.

Providing an all-inclusive offer for your child

Unlike most nurseries, all our fees are inclusive. What you see in the fee sheet is what it costs. Your child may be participating in specialist sports teaching, early years ball skills, tennis, yoga, baby massage, dance, drama or music sessions, all at no extra cost. We ensure that our staffing levels are sufficient to provide these services and employ full time professionals on the staff team rather than relying on visiting teachers. The only additional costs may be from time to time when we take the children on trips where there may be charges for transport and entry. These will be kept to a minimum.



Listening to, and respecting your child

Working closely with parents in partnership

Listening to and respecting your child – helping your child achieve his/her potential is our focus. In this way we help children to understand their abilities and limitations, and to become self-reliant and self-confident.

We recognise that a common shortcoming of day care and nurseries is a lack of communication with, and the constructive involvement of, parents. Communication is often difficult in a nursery where parents want to talk to staff who are often very busy at the beginning and end of the day. Often parents see only a snap shot of nursery life. They can feel frustrated and left out of their child's nursery life, not knowing as much as they would like to about the little things that go on.

We respect the input our parents may wish to make to the development of our schools and want to ensure that you are never left feeling isolated or unhappy. Occasionally, there may be issues you wish to discuss concerning your child or indeed any aspect of nursery life. We invite you to come in at any time to do this. We have also put into place a variety of different methods of communication to make your involvement with your child at nursery as seamless as possible. These include daily feedback, parent boards, use of e-mail, developmental assessments, feedback questionnaires for parents, parent information evenings, nursery events/shows, and, of course, the ability to share your child's day via the webcams.

It is vital that parents, too, are part of the Active Learning family.

Including parents and siblings within the Active Learning Family

Parents, staff, children and siblings all become part of the Active Learning family. We will be offering a wide range of activities for parents and siblings including:

- breakfast club and after school and holiday clubs (for older siblings)
- annual concerts and performances
- exhibitions of art produced by the children
- open days
- parents evenings
- annual picnic and summer barbecue
- cricket and tennis club membership for children and parents in our Muswell Hill/Crouch End nursery
- sibling discounts

At Active Learning, we believe the involvement of the whole family is critical to the ongoing success of the school and believe that this is one of the many ways in which we differentiate ourselves in providing a premium service.





Active Learning
Contacting us

Should you wish to find out more about Active Learning
contact us on our freephone number

0800 081 1620

visit:

www.active-learn.co.uk

or e-mail us:

info@active-learn.co.uk

Book a time to visit the nursery and grounds. We believe you
will see the difference we offer in nursery education.